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THE
PROGRESS
OF THE
FRENCH,
In their VIEWS of
Universal Monarchy.

*Raptore Orbis ; auferre trucidare rapere, falsis nō-
minibus imperium & pacem appellant.* Tacitus.



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T O

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

The DUKE of *Cumberland*,

A N D T O

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

The LORD ANSON.

THE following Sheets, writ by a Country-Gentleman, and published at his Desire; which, it is humbly apprehended, fully lay open the ambitious Views of *France*, and demonstrate, that nothing, but a War vigorously carried on against her, in whatever Manner the Legislature of this Kingdom shall judge meet; and continued to a proper Reduction of her exorbitant Power, and the utter Incapacity of putting her incroaching Schemes in Execution; can save the Commerce, the Colonies, the Religion;

in short, the whole Dominions of *Britain* (not to mention those of the other States of *Europe*) from becoming the Prey of that turbulent, aspiring, perfidious Nation ; are, with the greatest Deference, and the profoundest Submission, inscribed by

His ROYAL HIGHNESS's,

and his LORDSHIP's,

most dutiful.

and most faithfully devoted

Unknown humble Servant.



To the A U T H O R.

S I R,

I have, to the best of my Abilities, executed the Trust repos'd in me of publishing your Pamphlet, and taken a Liberty which, tho' without your Knowledge, will, I am persuaded, be far from your Disapprobation. 'Tis the laying it at the Feet of the two very great Personages, who are by their Prince deservedly set, the one at the Head of our Army, and the other, in the chief Direction of our Navy, and who from their Situation, have a Kind of Claim to the Patronage of the following Papers, which, I think, can't fail of doing the Good they were intended for ; and are justly calculated to promote. To make their Influence the more universal, I sincerely wish they were as fast as possible translated into every Language, and dispersed in every Court of Europe. I have ventur'd to insert two or three Passages, which I flatter myself you will not judge improper, as they fall very

very naturally into the Places they fill. I hope I am not altogether sanguine in expecting the Piece, tho' small, will be no unacceptable Present to your Country, but rather stimulate it's Desire after more Productions from the same Hand, and the speedy Publication of one you have by you almost finished, on COMMERCE, and other important Subjects, would be of the highest public Utility, in the Opinion of,

S I R,

Your Sincere Friend, and

Nov. 25, 1755.

Most Obedient Servant.

E R R A T A.

Page 4. l. 4. for *Danos* read *Danaos*; p. 14. l. 4. dele the Comma; p. 17. l. 11. read *Pyrennees*, p. 24. l. 19 and 23. dele the first and last *h* and *o* in *Augsbourgh*; p. 35. read *Luctuque*; put a full Stop after *Virginia* in p. 55; and a Comma instead of a full Stop after *us* in the next Line; p. 55. l. 15. and p. 56. l. 2. read *Louisiana*.

THE
PROGRESS
OF THE
FRENCH, &c.

To justify the Conduct of our Ministry in their present Hostilities against *France*; to raise the Resentment of all true *Britons*, all Lovers of their Country, its Religion, Liberties, and Laws; to excite the Animosity of all the Patrons of our Trade and Commerce; and to set before the Eyes of all *Europe*, what they have to expect from that insolent Power *France*, if it be suffered to run its Career of Violence and Robbery, without Check or Controul: It seems not amiss to look back on the Policy and Practice of this perfidious

Court for above 100 Years past. From hence *Britain* may know what she has to dread, *Europe* to expect, and both to guard against. At this Juncture to alarm all our Neighbours against the Designs and ambitious Views of *France*, and revive in the Minds of every Prince and State, her Plots, Plans, and Conspiracies in Times past, may tend to disconcert her Measures, render her Views abortive, and frustrate all her Intentions.

To be thoroughly apprized of the Designs of *France*, must tend to rouse the Indignation of every Lover of Peace, Justice, his Country, and its Rights and Privileges; and induce every Prince to unite for crushing this ambitious, perfidious, restless, bigoted, persecuting, plundering Power, which has long been the common Disturber of the western World, and as long struggled for Universal Monarchy. The *French* assert the Right of their Kings to the *Carlovingian* Dominions, and have long meditated the Recovery of that Empire by Conquest. For this End their Politicians have laid Schemes, their Ministry adopted them, their Princes practised them, and their People avowed

avowed the Hopes and Expectations of their Execution. It is greatly to be lamented, that through the Treachery and Folly of *Britain*, they have but too well succeeded in their Attempts, as their great Acquisitions evince, their Schemes and gradual Approaches to attain which, I am going to set forth for the Advantage and Use of my Countrymen, in particular.

Cardinal *Richelieu* seems to have been the first, who projected the raising a naval Power in *France*, and the Extension of its Dominions. For this End, Colonies were to be planted, Fisheries to be encouraged, and Commerce to be promoted *. But in the mean Time, 'twas necessary to give *England* a Soporific,— to lull her to Rest ; in Consequence of which, a *Dallilah* was sent over to bind *Sampson* and shear his Locks. A Daughter of *France* was married to *Charles I.* of *England* ; and at this Marriage, several Stipulations were agreed on, in Favour of the Commerce of

* Voyez Dict. de Commerce par Mr. *Savary*, *Paris* Edit. 1748. Vol. II. Pag. 428. & Testament politique de Card. *Richelieu*, Vol. I. Pag. 67. Le Recueil par *Chatman*, à *Amsterdam*.

France, by which the Trade, Strength, and Riches of this Nation were to be sap'd. Every true *Britain* saw it, and whisper'd to himself, *Timco Danos & dona ferentes*.

By this unnatural Conjunction, *Papists* were to be favoured, *Puritans* to be persecuted, and the Protestants of *France* to be betray'd, and both good Faith and sound Policy to be sacrificed. This monstrous Coalition, and these impolitic Steps, set the Nation in a Flame, and kindled up a Civil War ; which was underhand blown up and fomented by the Artifices and Emis- faries of *France* ||. Thus whilst *England* was intent upon the Preservation of its Religion and Liberties, *France* was engaged in raising a *Marine* to extend its Empire, by promoting its Manufactures, increasing its Trade, establishing its Colonies, favouring its Fisheries, and in a Word, by extending its Commerce ; and having enslaved her own Subjects, she attempted to make Slaves of the rest of *Europe*.

The Usurper, to secure his ill-gotten Power, strikes up an Alliance with *France*, to revenge himself on the *Dutch*. *France*

|| See the Memoirs of Cardinal *Retz*.

stands by and laughs in her Sleeve to see the two Protestant *Maritime Powers* destroying each other ; and underhand on each Side foments the Discord, which renders her Marine relatively stronger ; and at the same Time, either adds something on each Side to her Territories, or conducts Things to her Wishes at Home, by enslaving her own People to be at Liberty to enslave the rest of *Europe* ; which Proceedings of *Cromwell* were directly opposite to the Good of this Kingdom, as well as contrary to sound Policy. Thus Things went swimingly on 'till the Peace of the *Pyrennes*.

The Throne of *Spain*, the Trade of that Kingdom, and the Treasures of the *West-Indies* were what the *French* cast a wishful Eye on ; and with a View of obtaining these one Day or other, a Match was struck up with the Infanta of *Spain*. Here was a Foundation laid for Universal Monarchy. This Match was projected with a View to carry on the grand Design of extending the Dominions of *France*, and recovering the *Carlovingian Empire*. 'Tis true, a formal and solemn Renunciation of the Crown of *Spain*, and all the Territories thereto be-

longing, were made by the young King and Queen, for themselves and their Posterity, in Favour of the *Emperor* and his Successors. But this was a solemn Farce, a mere Imposition contrived to blind the World, and conceal their Views, as appear'd soon after upon the Death of the Prince of *Spain*, in 1661 §.

Thus I have conducted my Reader to the Eve and Opening of as great a Scene of Action, as has ever appear'd in modern *History*.

Soon after this, the King took the Reins of Government into his own Hands, reform'd his Finances, put them and his Household into good Order; and then set out in his Career of political Intrigue and Conquest. This young King by his Flatterers was made to believe, that he was a Hero, another *Alexander*, that *Victory* would attend him with her Laurels wherever he advanced with his Troops; that his Arms were invincible; that every one would submit to his Nod; and that now was the Time to recover the *Carlovingian* Empire, and to lay the Foundations for subduing the

World, and for erecting one of the greatest Monarchies, that ever was seen in it.

In Consequence of these Flatteries, the following Scheme was presented to him, and received with Approbation, being calculated to tickle his Vanity; and feed his unbounded Ambition,

“ The Schematist says, that though
 “ *France* be a powerful Nation, yet it was
 “ to be wished, that the King did add to
 “ his Kingdom, first of all the *Low-Coun-*
 “ *tries* to the *Rhine*. This Conquest would
 “ resettle him in *Part* of the antient Do-
 “ main of his Predecessors, make him
 “ Master of the *North-Sea*, and Arbitra-
 “ tor between the Kings of *Sweden*, *Den-*
 “ *mark* and *Poland*. He ought likewise to
 “ have *Strasbourg* to keep *Germany* quiet,
 “ the *Frenche Comté* to restrain the *Swiss* ;
 “ *Milan* and *Genoa*, which last belongs to
 “ the King, would make him Master of
 “ the *Mediterranean*, and with *these* he
 “ might lock up the Duke of *Savoy*. In
 “ the next Place, says he, we must get the
 “ *Isle of Elba*, to drive the *Spaniards* out of
 “ *Italy*, and to awe all the *Italian* Princes,
 “ and even the Pope ; after which, *Sardi-*
 “ *nia*

" *nia* would be no difficult Conquest; Na-
 " *varre* and *Catalonia* must be possess'd;
 " *Majorca* and *Minorca* would follow with-
 " out much Trouble, and then the King
 " would be Umpire of the Fortune of the
 " *Spaniards*; and if it should happen
 " that the *Queen*, or her Descendants, should
 " have an hereditary Right in Spain, he
 " would be in a Condition to do himself
 " Justice."

2dly, To carry this fine Scheme into Execution, Trade, Navigation, and Commerce, were to be promoted, in order to raise a Navy, that might render the *French* as superior by Sea, as they were at Land.

Thus to enable the King to carry on his Conquests, the Politician above cited, likewise proposes, that his Majesty shall keep 100 Gallies, and 100 Men of War in the *Mediterranean*, and 200 more on the Ocean. The Fleets which the King might keep on the Ocean, would make the King Master of all the Trade and Powers of the *North*; even though *England* and *Holland* should unite against him, they would not fail of their Ruin in the End. The Point of *Britainy* is the Gate to enter in and go out

of the Channel. Fifty Ships of War at *Brest* would keep this Gate fast shut, and they should not open it but by the King's Command. A Fleet likewise on the Coast of *Guyenne* would awe *Spain* and *Portugal*.

And to remove all Objections to this Scheme, the Writer proceeds, and says,

“ How insolent soever the *English* be,
 “ they must confess, that all the *British*
 “ Isles laid together do not equal half the
 “ *French* Continent. In fine, had they
 “ compared *France* and its Coasts with
 “ *England*, they would condemn their Va-
 “ nity in assuming to themselvés to be Lords
 “ of the Sea, as *Canutus*, one of their anti-
 “ ent Kings, did.”

The Author proceeds, in pointing out the Interest, Power, Strength, Policy, Disposition and Connections of the several States, Neighbours to *France*, and how they were to be dealt with, whilst the King was compleating his great Work of Conquest.

Spain is represented as weak, foolish and slothful ; *Germany* as divided ; the Emperor as weak, and not to be feared ; *Holland*

as being in their Interest ; and as for *England*, he says,

“ *England* is a State too weak to make
 “ any Trial of Strength against *France* :
 “ And as for Matter of the *English* them-
 “ selves, they are a Sort of People without
 “ Faith, without Religion, without Ho-
 “ nesty, without any Justice at all ; of
 “ the greatest Levity that can be ; cruel,
 “ impatient, gluttonous, proud, audaci-
 “ ous, covetous, fit for handy Strokes and
 “ Execution, but unable to carry on a
 “ War with Judgment. They are not fit
 “ for Conquest, so never conquered any
 “ Thing but *Ireland*, whose Inhabitants
 “ are weak and ill Soldiers.

“ If we have a Mind to ruin them, we
 “ need but oblige them to keep an *Army on*
 “ *Foot*, and there is no fear, that they
 “ should make any Invasion upon *France* ;
 “ that would be their undoubted Ruin.

“ Now if they have an Army, they
 “ will infallibly make War upon one an-
 “ other, and so ruin themselves. They
 “ must likewise be obliged to keep Garri-
 “ sons ; this will create a Belief, that the
 “ King formeth Projects against their Li-
 “ berty ;

“ berty ; and whilst he is in Arms, his Sub-
 “ jects will hate him. Letters must be
 “ wrote in Cypher, and sent, so as to be in-
 “ tercepted, to raise Jealousies ; Factions
 “ must be raised, and the Sects favour'd
 “ one against another ; especially the Ca-
 “ tholicks, among whom the *Benedictine*
 “ Monks should be promised the Abby-
 “ Lands, and they will move Heaven and
 “ Earth, to throw the Nation into Con-
 “ fusion.” †

And all this fine Scheme was to be car-
 ried on under the Notion of *doing Good to*
Mankind, by extirpating Heresy and Hereticks,
propagating true Religion, and bringing the
neighbouring States under a more happy Form
of Government for their own Interest †.
 Thus wading thro' Seas of Blood, Rapine,
 Murder, the Violation of all Civil Rights ;
 the shackling the World in *French Slavery*,
 and the Introduction of the most stupid *Ido-
 latry*, were cloaked under the Masque of
 Religion, and the pious Pretence of doing

† The Gentleman who discover'd these Secrets,
 was sent to the *Bastile*, and afterwards banished.

† See Madam *Maintenon's Letters*, and the *Poli-
 ticks of France*.

Good to Mankind. Impious Scheme !
Horrid Blasphemy !

But the Motives to the Execution of this Plan were *Ambition, Pride, Avarice*, and the *Lust* of Dominion. The Empire of *Charlemagne* was to be recovered, and an Universal Monarchy to be establish'd. Such were the Views of this mighty *Nimrod*, who was afterwards eaten up by Lice ; which Providence permitted, to convince this haughty Worm, that he was a poor contemptible Mortal, tho' able to do Mischief ; and a Monster big enough to be a Plague to Mankind, and the Curse of his Country.

I come now to the favourable Circumstances which concur'd, for enabling the *French* to carry on their Plan of arriving at Universal Monarchy.

Soon after *Lewis XIV.* was married to the *Infanta of Spain*, the Restoration of *Charles the Second* was brought about in *England*. This Prince was profligate, prophane, luxurious, and debauch'd, preferring his Pleasures, and his Mistresses, to his own Dignity and Honour, and to the Welfare of his Kingdom, and the Happiness of his People.

People. Though his Cousin *Lewis* had expell'd him out of *France*, in Complaisance to *Cromwell* *, yet he encouraged a Trade with that Kingdom, which occasion'd an Influx of *French* Commodities and Luxury; and the Consumption of their Commodities he promoted with all his Might, both by Recommendation and Example.

He likewise sold that important Port and Fortress *Dunkirk* to *France* for 200,000 *l.* or thereabout, which in the Confederate War proved a great Thorn in our Sides; and which the *French* are now fortifying again, contrary to Treaty.

Soon after this, the Consumption of *French* Commodities was carried to such a Height, by the Encouragement and Example of *Charles's* Court, that Mr. *Fortery*, one of the Gentlemen of his Bedchamber, calculates, that the *French* got a Ballance in Trade of 1,600,000 *l. per Ann.* upon us.

But whilst *England* was losing 1,600,000*l. per Ann.* by the *French* Trade, to make us Amends for this Loss, the *French* establish'd an

* 'Tis said, that Mons. *Bourdeaux*, the *French* Ambassador at *London*, did what he could to prevent *Charles's* Restoration.

East-India Company in 1664; erected a Company to carry on the Whale-Fishery; set up a Variety of Woollen Manufactures all over the Kingdom, to supplant ours in the Foreign Markets ; and particularly in *Languedoc*, to rob us of the Cloth Trade to *Turky* ; which Manufactures were supported by Premiums and Bounties on the Export, and all natural and artificial Encouragements given to them, that they might rival those of *England*. The Success of those Measures our present *Turky* Merchants but too sensibly feel.

But notwithstanding *France* carried on such an advantageous Trade with us, and to our great Detriment, yet its Rapacity could not be contented with the great Advantages it enjoy'd, but in the Year 1667, to encourage the Home Consumption of its own Manufactures, and hinder the Importation of ours, it publish'd a new Tariff, and by it laid such high Duties upon *English* Manufactures, as amounted to a Prohibition ||. Tho' the Nation felt the terrible

|| This may serve to correct a gross Error of Mr. *Hume's*, who says, we were the first Aggressors with Regard

terrible Effects of this slow Poison, working and preying on its Vitals, and clamour'd against it ; yet *Charles*, out of Complaisance to his good Friend *Lewis*, who had promised to make him an absolute Monarch, permitted this pernicious Trade to be carried on 'till the Year 1676, by which Time it had almost ruin'd the Nation. By the Consumption of *French* Commodities Trade languish'd, Navigation dwindle, Tenants broke, Rents were ill-paid, Wool sold low, and the Landed Interest found the terrible Effects of this *French Disease*, diffusing its venomous Contagion all over the Body Politick.

To give some Relief in this Malady, the Project of the Prohibition of the Importation of *Irish* Cattle was hit upon, which was only a Palliative at that Time, and has proved a Remedy worse than the Disease since. All this while *Charles* was assisting the *French* King in raising a Navy, that his most Christian Majesty might be in a Condition to assist him in enslaving his

Regard to the *French* Trade. See his *Political Discourses*.

own Subjects. Nay, *Charles* went so far as to reprehend, and turn out, one of his own Ministers §, for impertinently remarking to his Majesty, the dangerous Consequences of permitting the *French* to increase their Marine. And when *French* Wines were prohibited, to favour his good Friend *Lewis*, the Officers of the Customs were ordered to wink at their being enter'd as *Ports*. But this is not at all to be wonder'd at, since *Charles* was a Pensioner to *France*, and enter'd into all the Views and Measures of the *French* King, to the Ruin of his own Kingdom, as well as of the Repose of *Europe*.

To carry on their Scheme, and to weaken the Maritime Powers, *France* sowed Discord between the *English* and *Dutch*, stir'd up Jealousies, fomented Feuds, and nursed Animosities, till all Things were in a Flame, and they fell to destroying each other in a Naval War ; by which *France* knew it should grow relatively stronger, and might the sooner be capable to figure it at Sea, and compleat its Scheme of Universal Monarchy.

Whilst Hostilities were carrying on between the *English* and *Dutch*, in the Year 1665, *Philip IV.* King of *Spain* dies, and leaves *Charles* the 2d his Son, then an Infant, his Successor ; and now *Lewis XIV.* his Brother-in-Law, began to take off the Masque, and open the long intended Scene of Perjury, Violence, Rapine and Blood. Notwithstanding he had solemnly renounced the *Spanish* Succession at the Peace of the *Pyrennes* ; yet immediately after the Death of his Father-in-Law, he invaded the Territories of his Brother the *Catholic King*, and took Possession of such Part of the *Spanish* Low-Countries as he pleased. The Rapidity of his Conquests, the Injustice of his Conduct, and the Perjury and Violence he was guilty of, astonished all *Europe*.

But by the Mediation of the *Dutch* and the *Swedes*, a Peace was made, and it was agreed, that *Lewis* should keep Possession of his new Conquests, The *Dutch* were afraid of so near and powerful a Neighbour as *France*, and willing to keep her at as great Distance as possible. *Lewis* was displeased with their Conduct, and dissatisfied

fied with the Peace, because he wanted all the *Spanish* Low-Countries, and from hence differed with the Commissaries at *Lille* about the Adjustment of his new Conquests, and declared he would do himself Justice by Force of Arms ; however a Peace was afterwards concluded at *Aix-la-Chapelle*. *Lewis* hated the States for throwing a *Remora* in the Way, whilst he was in his Progress towards Universal Monarchy, and was resolved to chastise them. For this End, he formed a most powerful Confederacy against them, into which *Charles* the Second of *England* enter'd as a Party, against all the Rules of good Policy, whilst the *Emperor* with equal Stupidity, agreed to a Neutrality.

Thus *France* was extending its Conquests by Land, its Commerce by Sea, and increasing its Trade and Manufactures to raise a *Marine*, and rival us in Arts and Arms, both by Sea and Land : And in the mean while, the King of *England*, instead of stirring up all the States of *Europe* to crush this exorbitant Power, was confederated with it, and concurr'd with, and assisted *Lewis* in every Step he took in his Progress towards

towards Universal Monarchy : And in doing this, he sacrificed his own Honour, the Welfare of his People, and the Peace of Christendom.

But in Return for this Complaisance, *Lewis* promised *Charles* to make him an absolute Monarch † ; and thus *Charles* became the Tool of *Lewis*'s Ambition, and the Dupe of his own Love of arbitrary Power. They

† After King *Charles*'s Interview with the Duchess of *Orleans* at *Dover*, a secret League was ratified between the Crowns of *France* and *England*, one Article of which the Abbot *Primi* says, was, “ To see “ cure to King *Charles* an absolute Power over his “ Parliament, and the Re-establishment of the *Roman* “ Catholick Religion in his three Kingdom of *Eng-* “ *land*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*.” His Words are, *De lui assurer une Autorité absolue sur son Parlement & de restabler la Religion Catholique dans les Royaumes d'Angleterre, d'Ecosse, & d'Ireland*. In 1682, King *Charles* complained of the divulging this Secret, by his Ambassador the Lord *Preston* at *Versailles*, and *Primi* was committed to the *Bastile*

Lewis knew, that both *Charles* and his Brother were *Papists*, and infected with that *Lues* of the *Stuart* Race, Bigotry, and the Itch of arbitrary Power: And thus he baited his Trap accordingly.

were to conquer the *Dutch*, and divide the seven Provinces between them. This was hunting with the Lion, and dividing the Prey with him, where *Charles* could expect nothing but the Fate of the duped Beasts ; and in the Issue to be worried himself. *England* rues for this false Policy to this Day. We were at this Time jealous of the *Dutch*, and regardless at the same Time of the *French*, who were sapping the Foundations of our Trade and Commerce, and knawing its Roots both in the *East-Indies* and *North America*, as well as at the *Leeward Islands*.

And this stupid Prejudice continues to this very Day ; and a modern *Politician* says, The *Dutch* are our Rivals in *TRADE* and *NAVIGATION* ; *they are our OUT-GUARD on the Continent*, and yet we may do too much for them. They are parsimoniuous, and therefore we cannot get Possession of their Trade, unless we destroy them by our Naval Force *.

* See *Batavia Illustrata*.

But our greatest Danger is from the Schemes and Pursuits of the *French*, of which this Gentleman says not one Word, by Way of Caution or Comparison. This Danger will appear clearly from the following Considerations. Bread, in *Holland*, such as our Manufacturers in *England* eat, is commonly at $3d$ a Pound *Sterling*; Flesh at $9d$, such as is sold in *England* at $3d$; Labour as high as in *England*: Whereas, in *France* in the Provinces, Bread is in common at one Halfpenny *per* Pound, *Sterling*, or at least at about half the Price it is at in *England*; and Flesh in the same Proportion. Labour in *France*, likewise, is but from about $3d$ *per* Day, of 14 Hours, or from Five to Seven o'Clock, in the cheapest Countries, and at about $7d$ half-penny in the dearest: In Manufactures, at but half the Price as in *England*. Sailors Wages aboard the *French* Navy, but from about 8*s* to 12*s* *per* Month; whereas in *England*, a Sailor has 20*s* *per* Month aboard King's Ships. This must render

their

their Goods exceeding cheap at a foreign Market.

Now I would submit it to the Reflection of any reasonable Man, who are most likely to rival us in Trade and Navigation, the *Dutch* or the *French*. And here it may be observed, that this Cheapness of Labour, Provisions, and Commodities, was brought about by the *sole Artifice of the Enhancement of their Money from 27 Livres, to 50 Livres the Mark of eight Ounces of Silver Troy weight*; and this has been done since the Beginning of the confederate War in 1702. 'Tis true, this caused great Convulsions in the Kingdom at first, but in the Issue, it has been the Instrument by which they have sapped the Foundations of our Trade; and if a Remedy be not applied, which is every Day at hand, *viz. a Bounty*, this Artifice of the *French* will worm out *British* Manufactures by gentle Degrees in every Market in the World.

By this Artifice they have rendered their Labour so cheap, that they reap a plentiful Harvest in every Country, *where they pay*

pay but the same Customs as the English, whilst the *English Merchant* is obliged to wait for the Gleanings of the Market, after the *Frenchman* has finished his Sales.

This has reduced our *Turkey Trade* from a Sale of about 30,000 Woollen Cloths *per Annum* to about 6000; whilst, within a few Years, the *French Cloth Trade* has increased from a Sale of 2000 Cloths *per Annum*, to above 40,000. This Project of the Enhancement of Money, has given an undue Preference in *France* to Money, above Land and Commodities: But where lies the Disadvantage, if the *Gentleman* receives but a 100 lb. weight of Silver for his Lands, where he used to receive 200 lb. if, at the same Time, he can purchase as many Commodities with 100 *l.* as before the Enhancement he could with two? It is certain it would only affect his foreign Consumption. By this Scheme the *French* have restrained the Bulk of the People to the Consumption of their own Manufactures and Commodities, and have prodigiously extended their Commerce, by underselling all Nations. This has enabled

their

their Islands to send home Sugars, Indigo, &c. so cheap, as to rival us in all the European Markets, and in the Levant : And all this they do, though their Manufacturers pay six Times as much in Taxes on the Necessaries of Life as they do in England.

After the Invasion of the United Provinces by *France*, in 1672, not the King of *England*. but his Parliament being alarmed at the *French* Conquests, as likewise the Empire and the King of *Spain*, these three Powers declared in Favour of the *Dutch*, which brought about the Peace of *Nimeguen* ; where the King of *France* had large Dominions he had conquered, conceded to him. But universal Monarchy being the Aim of *Lewis*, he soon found Pretences for violating the Treaty, which produced the League of *Augsbourg* in 1683, and obliged him to a twenty Years Truce.

From the Death of *Philip* the Fourth, King of *Spain*, whilst all these Things were transacting, to the League of *Augsbourg* in 1683, Mons. *Colbert* took Care to encourage Arts, diffuse Manufactures, promote Fisheries, and extend Commerce ; and

and all with a View to raise a powerful *Marine* to rival the united Forces of the *English* and *Dutch*. This was the principal Part of the Plan of Conquest ; and this the *French* succeeded in to their Wishes ; so that in a few Years we saw *France* alone contend with the united Squadrons of the *English* and *Dutch* for the Empire of the Main.

Hot-headed *Lewis* would never have attained his End, had it not been for the prudent Councils of his Minister *Colbert*, who addressed him in this Manner when he was venting his Spleen against the *Dutch*, who obstructed his Conquest.

“ The Advice I would presume to give
 “ your Majesty is to disband the greatest
 “ Part of your Forces, and save so many
 “ Taxes to your People. Your very Do-
 “ minions make you too powerful to fear
 “ any Insult from your Neighbours. Turn
 “ your Thoughts, Sir, I intreat you, from
 “ War ; cultivate the Arts of Peace, the
 “ Trade and Manufacture of your Subjects :
 “ This will make you the most powerful
 “ Prince, and your People at the same
 “ Time the richest of all Nations.——

" There never will be wanting Fools to
 " purchase the Manufactures of *France* ;
 " but *France* must be strictly prohibited to
 " buy those of other Countries. But above
 " all, Peace will ingratiate your Majesty
 " with the *Spanish* Nation during the Life
 " of their crazy King ; and after his Death,
 " a few seasonable Presents among his
 " Courtiers shall purchase the Reversion of
 " his Crowns, with all the Treasures of
 " the *Indies* ; and then the World is your
 " own."

It is certainly a Virtue in a State to promote Industry, encourage Arts, multiply Traders, and extend Commerce, provided it be done to make the People happy. But if we examine the Politicks of the *French*, we shall find these beneficent Motives the least of their Regards. No, the Vain-glory of their Monarch, acquired by cutting Throats, and ravishing the Territories of their Neighbours from them, whilst even their own lie uncultivated and neglected, are the Motives which induce them to favour Arts, and promote Commerce : Commerce is to support Conquest, and Conquest is to extend Commerce, but

Pride and Vain-glory are the *Primum Mobile*, not the Happiness of Society, and the Good of Mankind ; though the *French* most blasphemously rob and plunder their Neighbours under those Pretences.

It is true *Colbert* advises his Master to turn his Thoughts from Arms to Commerce ; but then the End is *to make the World his own*. Commerce is to bring in Riches, the Treasures of the *Indies* ; and these are to be employed in raising Armies, and in making the World his own. Here the End the *French* pursue in promoting Commerce is avowed, *viz.* that they may be able to plunder their Neighbours, and rob them of their Territories ; that they may recover the Empire of *Charlemagne*, or all that lies between the *Baltic* and the *Adriatic*, and from thence to the *Mediteranean* and the *Atlantic* Ocean, the Dominions of that Monster of Cruelty ; after which the *World is to be made their own*.

Navigation and Commerce are to be made the stalking Horses to promote those Schemes : “ *And these Plans*, their Politicians say, “ *must be perfected by little and*

little ; so great Designs continually alarming Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, FRIENDS and FOES, a Precipitation of it would be its Ruin."

In Conformity to this Advice, *Lewis* consented to the Mediation of the *Dutch* and *Swedes*, and made a Peace at *Nimeguen*. This was all a Farce, nothing was meant by it, but to deceive his Neighbours, take them off their Guard, and attain his Ends by little and little. And to compass the Universal Monarchy projected, Perjury was committed, Alliances were broke through, Friends and Kindred were attacked, Allies betrayed, and every Relation, solemn Tye ; all Faith and Honour were sacrificed to Ambition, and Lust of Conquest. Seas of Blood were waded through, and every Barbarity and Cruelty committed by this polite Nation, in the Execution of their polite Scheme *.

Conquest is the Design of the *French* ; Trade is only attended to as the Instrument. Surely all *Europe* ought to unite

+ Witness their Cruelties at *Bodegrave* and *Swamerdam* in *Holland*.

against these Plunderers of the World, and Bullies of Mankind, who sacrifice every Thing to their savage Ambition. And as to *England*, they have attacked our Settlements in the *East Indies*, robbed us of our Territories in the *West Indies*, plundered our Colonies, murdered our People, violated our solemn Treaties, by seizing the neutral Islands, and committing Hostilities against us in every Quarter of the Globe. Arise, O *Britain* ! Avenge thy Cause, and restrain the Rapine and Violence of these Disturbers of the World.

The *French* raise Armies, build Ships, erect Forts, and favour Manufactures and Commerce, not to make their People happy, but to be in a Condition to take Advantage of every Conjunction for extending their Dominions, and robbing their Neighbours. *Colbert* avows this, and that the *Dominions of the French King* are *too great, and make him too powerful to fear any Insult from his Neighbours*. And their other Politicians say, *One State is weak, ANOTHER divided, ANOTHER slothful, and from thence encourage their Princes to make a Prey of all.*

It is clear from hence, that their Insults upon our Settlements in the *East Indies*, and their Encroachments upon the *Mississippi*, and in *Canada*, are carried on, not from any Fear of their Neighbours, or to secure their own Commerce or Territories; but to advance and increase their Navigation, which is considered by them as an Instrument necessary for acquiring Universal Monarchy †. I cannot help asking here, what will become of their good Ally the King of *Pr--ff--a*, when the French King comes to the Possession of the *Carlovingian Empire*, at which he aims ?

By the Folly and Wickedness of *Charles the Second*, *France* having drained *England* of between 20 and 30 Millions, thro' the pernicious Trade carried on for near 20 Years with that Kingdom, during his Reign ‡; and having by the Craft of *Colbert*

† *Quos non Oriens non Occidens satiaverit.*

TACITUS.

‡ Dr. *Davenant* remarks, that if this had been true, *England*, by the End of *Charles the Second's Reign*,

bert extended its Commerce, and raised a powerful Marine ; and likewise having gained large and fertile Territories on each Side, through the pernicious Maxims and bad Policy of the glorious King of *England*, no Treaties nor Ties could hold the *French* Monarch long.

Reign, would not have had a Shilling left in the Kingdom. But the Doctor seems to be very much out in his Calculations. He did not in the least reflect on the constant Supplies brought in from our Northern Colonies, which traded to the *Spanish Main*, and from *Jamaica* ; the Exploits of the *Buccaniers*, the Ballance of Trade with *Africa*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Holland*, the *Netherlands*, *Germany* and *Ireland*. All which might and did furnish us annually with more than *France* drained us of ; though, whenever the Case is such, that the Stock of Cash in a Nation does not go on increasing much, Trade will always appear to languish, and seemingly be in the State of an animal Body, which receives no Supply of Food. The Computations made from the Customs received must have been erroneous : Besides, at that Time, 100,000 *l.* worth of Manufactures sent to *Jamaica*, could not fail of returning us 500,000 *l.* Profit. The *African* Trade likewise, at one Time, brought in a monstrous Profit. From all these Considerations, it appears probable, that *England* might export but two Millions in Value, import four Millions in Value, and yet its Stock of Cash not lessen.

Charles dies, and in 1685, his Brother *James* mounts the Throne, who was under the Influence of Popish Priests, Popish Maxims, and *French* Councils. To please his Friend *Lewis*, he took off the Prohibition of the *French* Trade, and opened the Door again for *French* Luxury, in order to enrich *France* at the Expence of the *English* Nation.

French Wines and *French* Manufactures were again introduced, so that our Trade to *Portugal* was like to have been ruined. This the King of *England* did out of Complaisance to *Lewis*, that he in his Turn might assist him in making him absolute, and in establishing the *Popish* Religion in his three Kingdoms ; as likewise in palming upon us a spurious Brat for a Monarch, who was perhaps the Issue of some *Plebeian* Trull, which Plot was contrived purely for the Establishment of Popery in the Kingdom again.

But these Measures of the *French* King were pursued to prevent *England* from taking Part with the Princes he intended to rob of their Dominions ; from holding the Ballance of Power, and from obstructing his

his Career of Conquest, and Pursuit of Universal Monarchy.

The Count *D'Avaux* had mentioned in a Memorial to the States General, the Secret Alliance concluded between the King of *England* and the King of *France*. At that Time it was thought *Lewis* made this Discovery, to enrage the *English* in such a Manner, that the *King* might be afraid to trust them, and be obliged to have Recourse to a *French Army* to assist him against his own Subjects; which Army was then to have conquered the Kingdom for the *French King*.

But King *James* drove on so furiously to introduce Popery, that the Nation conspired to drive him out of the Kingdom, and the King of *France* began a War afresh to restore him to his Throne. This was not done out of any Regard to *James*, whom the King of *France* despised, but to have a Plea for pursuing his Plan of Conquest. This War was terminated by the Peace of *Ryswick*, and the *Partition Treaty* was agreed upon to settle Peace and the Ballance of Power. But all these

Compliances in the *French* were only a Farce, to deceive and amuse the Allies.

By the Influence of *French* Gold at the *Spanish* Court, and the Artifices of Cardinal *Portacarero*, a Will was signed by the King of *Spain* *in articulo mortis*, by which the *Spanish* Succession was left to the Duke of *Anjou*. And now the *French* King considered himself, as in Possession of *Spain*, its Trade, and the Treasures of the *West-Indies*, and of Course, *that the World was his own, according to the Prediction of Colkirt*. He immediately invaded the *Netherlands*, and seized on the *Spanish* Crown in Violation of his most solemn Renunciation, and repeated Treaties and Engagements. But having made large Strides towards *Universal Monarchy*, the Princes of *Europe* thought it was high Time to crush this *Leviathan* of Power, The Arms and Valour of the Allies, brought him and his Kingdom to the Brink of Ruin ; and whilst he was tottering upon this dreadful Precipice, a Faction ; but

— — *Haec Animus mimiinisfe horret,
Luctaque refugit. †*

The Abbe St. Pierre observes, that *France* was in a most dreadful Situation before the Battle of *Denain* ; that if it had been lost, the Kingdom would have been ruined, and that the Day on which it was won, ought to be celebrated as a solemn Festival by the *French* to the latest Posternity. To what their Salvation was owing, we but too well remember. O, you glorious *British* Patriots then at the Helm ! how are you to be admired to latest Ages !

During this War, the Trade to *Spain*, and the *Spanish West Indies*, was open only to *France*, by which they gained above 100 Millions of Dollars ; and by this Assistance they were enabled to continue the War against the most powerful Confederacy that ever was formed, conducted by the greatest Heads, and the honestest Hearts, that ever gave Council in the Cabinet, or led Troops into the Field.

† I tremble at the dreadful Thought, and forbear mentioning the mournful Theme.

But notwithstanding the *French* were reduced to Beggary and Ruin by the Confederate Arms, yet our glorious Patriots, and sagacious Politicians at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, left *France* in the Possession of near all her Conquests, which a judicious Author says, amounted to eight Sovereign Provinces, two Archbishopricks, nine Bishopricks, thirty of the strongest Places in the World, seventy Cities, some of which are reckoned among the finest in *Europe*, and more than 3000 Market Towns and Villages. And to this we may add another considerable Acquisition since, *viz.* the Dutchies of *Lorain* and *Bar*. The Revenues of these Countries which have been annexed of late to the Dominions of the *French* King, amount to more than One-fourth of his whole Income.

But the Plan the *French* form'd is not half executed. The first Acquisitions were to have comprehended all the Territories South and South-West of the *Rhine*, in order to possess themselves of all the Trade of the *Meuse*, and what by that River is carried on by the *Dutch* into *Germany*; by which *England* would be a great Sufferer in its

its Commerce to *Holland*. The Attention of *France* to Commerce of late Years, is only to put herself in a Condition to execute her Schemes of Conquest, which she never loses Sight of. And if all the Powers of *Europe* do not unite to restrain her exorbitant Attempts, in Case *Britain* alone is not sufficient, they will soon find the bad Effects of their ill Policy and Indolence.

France herself acknowledges, that *the English have neither Inclination nor Abilities for Conquest*; and that they never attempted to conquer any Country but *Ireland*. *Le Blanc*, a late *French* Author, talks in the same Strain as *Colbert's* Pupil. He observes, That when the *English* pretended to be so alarm'd for the Liberties of *Europe*, they were only intent upon their own private Interest. A Prince of the House of *Bourbon* upon the Throne of *Spain*, would have given them no Umbrage, had it not affected their Commerce. The only Motive which induces them to make War, and the only Object they regard in Peace, is their Trade. His Words are, *Lorsque les Anglois paroissent si allarmés pour les Libertés de l'Europe ils n'étoient réellement occupés que de leur Intérêt*

particulier. *Un Prince du Sang de France ne leur faisoit ombrage sur le Trône d'Espagne, que par rapport à leur Commerce : On doit le regarder toujours comme le véritable motif qui les porte à faire la Guerre & comme l'unique objet qu'ils cherchent dans la Paix.* Voyez les Lettres d'un *Francois*, Vol. II. Page 241. And again, the *Romans* considered Trade only as a Means of obtaining Conquest ; the *English* never arm in *Europe*, but to extend their Commerce. *Les Romains ne sont devenus Commerçans que pour s'en assurer la Conquête ; les Anglois n'arment en Europe que pour y étendre leur Commerce.* Vol. III.

It is readily assented to, that England has no Views of Conquest, and desires only to enjoy her own, and to preserve her Trade and Territories unviolated. But this is what *France* will not admit of. It seems to be quite natural to this restless, ambitious, encroaching Power, to be thieving from its Neighbours : But we hope *Britain* will soon see the *French* in such a Condition, as to be able to say to them pertinently,

Discite Justitiam moniti, & non temnire Divos.

It is a Maxim in Politicks, that when a State begins to grow formidable, War ought to be made upon it by its Neighbours, to reduce its exorbitant Power. If the *Per-sians* had joined the *Grecian* States against *Philip of Macedon*, the royal Family of *Darius* had not fallen into the Hands of *Alexander*, nor the *Per-sians* become Slaves to the *Greeks*. If the *Carthaginians* had assisted the *Samnites*, and given Aid to other *Italian* States, in their Wars with the *Romans*, that Race of *Banditti* would never have rased the Capital of the *Africans*, nor have plagued the World for such a long Series of Years. And if the *British* Kings had united against the *Roman* Arms, *Agricola* might have made as ignominious a Retreat as *Julius Cæsar*. But *Dum singuli pugnant universi vincuntur*, whilst they fought one by one all were subdued. This ought to teach all *Europe* to unite against the *Gallic* Monster and Tyrant.

When the *French* are in a Condition to plague their Neighbours, they never fail of shewing their Inclination. And tho' it may not coincide with the strict Rules of Justice and Morality, to attack a State because it increases in Riches and Power ; yet when

the Vanity and Pride which Riches and Power inspire, break out into overt Acts of Violence and Rapine, then other Powers are justifiable in attacking such Robbers and Disturbers of the World; and ought never to sheath the Sword, 'till they are brought to Justice and Reason; and are so weaken'd, as to be unable to abuse their Neighbours for the future. These Measures the Laws of God and Man tolerate and justify. Surely if we saw a Robber arming to plunder and murder us, it would be Stupidity to wait 'till he had put himself in a compleat Posture to subdue us, when it was in our Power to have cut him off whilst he was preparing for our Destruction.

Now the Views of the *French* in the Extension of their Commerce, are to acquire a great Fleet, and by Means of this Fleet, and the Treasures of *Spain* and the *West-Indies*, brought Home by Commerce, to recover the Empire of *Charlemagne*, and make *the World their own*. This is the Scheme, which has been strictly adhered to ever since the Days of *Richlieu*. But the Gentleman who discover'd these Secrets of the *French* Court,

Court, was sent to the *Bastile*, and afterwards banish'd ; for the Scheme was to have been carried on a little and little, so great a Design alarming all Europe, Friends and Foes.

The French declare, that their very Dominions make them too great to fear any Insult from their Neighbours. That the English have neither Capacity nor Inclination for Conquest. That the British Dominions are nothing compared with the French in Extent, People, Fertility, and Riches ; and that they have nothing to dread even from an Union of England and Holland together. They represent the Emperor as weak, and Germany as divided ; and the English as easily set together by the Ears ; and induced to destroy each other. What is it then which makes France keep up Troops, Fortresses and Fleets ? The Answer is obvious ; nothing but the Lust of Dominion ; a thievish Disposition to rob and plunder its Neighbours ; and the vain Glory of excelling in the Arts of Plunder and Slaughter. They express a great Contempt for us, and consequently do not arm to defend themselves, but like *Banditti* to surprise and plunder their Neighbours.

Their Depredations have been long felt in the *East-Indies*. Their Encroachments on the *Mississippi* and in *North-America*, and Seisure of the Neutral Islands in the *West-Indies*, have been as long wink'd at ; and all this has made them as audacious and insolent, as if they thought the *English* both tame and blind : But it is high Time for *Britons* to awake and avenge themselves. If *Spain* can tamely submit to have such a thievish, insolent, ambitious, perfidious Power, fortify itself on the *Mississippi*, so near *Mexico*, *Britons* ought to pursue a different Policy, and to root out of *North-America* this turbulent Race, that is continually plaguing, and pilfering Territory from every *Prince*, who has the Misfortune to be adjacent to it, either in *Europe*, *Asia*, *Africa* or *America*.

REASONS FROM RELIGION, LIBERTY, AND TRADE,

For BRITAIN's pushing on a WAR
with *France*, with the utmost
VIGOUR.

Pro Aris & Focis, & Commercio.

THE French are Enemies to our Religion, to our Liberties, and to our Commerce. They look on us as Hereticks, Enemies to God, and consequently such as ought to be hated and destroyed by Man; and of Course they themselves would glory and rejoice, to embrue their Hands in our Blood. The bloody Massacre of the Protestants,

testants, their own Countrymen and Neighbours, in the Reign of *Charles* the IXth, 40,000 of whom they murder'd in their Beds in cool Blood, without Provocation, and contrary to their solemn Engagements; the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*, and their cruel and barbarous Persecutions of those People ever since ||, shew their mortal Hatred to our holy Religion, as well as the *devilish* Spirit of their *own*.

As to the Religion of the *French*, it is a System of Pageantry, Buffoonery, Foolery, Stupidity, Idolatry, Blasphemy and Cruelty, all mix'd together, and work'd up with Blood; fit only for stupid Fools and impertinent unthinking Buffoons. I will give you a late Instance of the unaccountable Stupidity of the *Catholicks*.

I was a little while ago, at the Academy of Painting in the City of *Bruges*. A Piece

¶ The Minister *Lovois* boasts, that it was worse under *Lewis XIV.* than under *Charles* the IXth. See his Political Testament.

was

was finishing there by one of their ablest Hands for one of their Churches. It consisted of the following *Groupe* of Figures. On the Left-hand, stood God the Father in the Form of an old Man with grey Hair almost white, and a long Beard of the same Colour: In his Right-hand he held a Globe, signifying his Providence and Government of the World: On his Left-hand stood his Son *Jesus*, with a long Beard seemingly about Fifty, and with a Glory about his Head; and between both hovered a Milk-white Dove, signifying the Holy Ghost. The Virgin *Mary*, drawn like *Pharoah's Daughter* at the *Foundling-Hospital*, was kneeling (with her Hands and Eyes lifted up) before the Father and the Son, who held a Laurel Crown in their Hands to adorn the holy Virgin's Brows.

There is something so shocking, impious and blasphemous in this Piece of Idolatry, that at first it startled me: But the Ridicule in the Solecism and Anachronism of the Son's being a Gentleman advanced in Years, and the Mother painted like a young blooming

blooming Girl, instead of a grave Matron, almost provok'd a Smile. This impious and ridiculous Piece, was to be hung up in one of their holy Places, for exciting Devotion, and receiving Adoration.

Now this is the Superstition which the *French* labour to propagate for the Good of Mankind. For this Idolatry they want us to exchange our most pure and holy Religion. But if we have any Regard for our evangelical Institutions, for a Religion worthy of a Man and a Freeman, this Regard ought to excite and animate our Rage and Indignation, against these stupid, vain-glorious, idolatrous, *would-be Conquerors, and Bigots*, who seek to shackle us with the Chains of Superstition and Darkness, as well as to oppress us with those of Conquest and Slavery.

The *French* are not only Enemies to our Religion, and religious Liberty, but also to our civil Liberty, and call us Rebels and Traytors †; because we have not submitted

† See the Mandate of the Bishop of *Mauntaban* in 1754.

tamely like themselves to receive the Yoke of Slavery and arbitrary Power; which some of our Monarchs have strived to put upon our Necks. Because we admire our Kings only for their Goodness, their Regard to our Constitution, Laws, and the Happiness of the People, therefore we are stiled by them *seditionis* and *factionis*. But, if they are *such Beasts*‡, as to be dazzled with the vain Glory and Eclat of a Tyrant and a Monster, called by the Name of *Le grand Monarque*, it is ridiculous to be angry with us, because we pay no Devotion to such a diabolical Idol.

The *English* admire and love their Kings, when they are *good*, when they pay a Regard to the Laws, and make them the Rule of their Conduct; but detest and abhor them, when they violate the Laws, and seek to govern the People by capricious Will, and to shackle them with the Chains of Slavery. They are governed at present

‡ Louis calls them *Le grand Bete le Peuple*. Voyez Son Testament Politique.

by the *wisest*, the *honestest*, and the *best* Prince in *Europe*. They highly esteem him, and have plentifully endowed him to support his Honour and Dignity. But he has the Hearts of his People, which is worth more than the Command of their Purses. But, notwithstanding they love their Prince, like true Lovers of Liberty, they keep a prudent Guard in Defence of their Rights, against all possible Accidents: And this Cau-
tion these Slaves call Faction. But, like couching Spaniels, the most abject of Dogs, the *French* bless the Hand of the Oppressor, and lick the Foot that kicks and spurns them; and, unworthy of Liberty, they have no Sense formed or adapted to taste its Sweets. Such are the *French*; and such Slaves, though glittering by the Side of a Monarch, *the meanest Briton* scorns.

But, as they have no Sense of Freedom themselves, they labour to deprive us of our civil Rights; and to force upon us an ab-
jured, illegitimate, and spurious *Pretender* to our Crown; educated in the Idolatry of

Rome,

Rome, and fostered in the Principles of arbitrary Power; the abject Pensioner and Tool of *France*, as well as Puppet of *French* Artifices. And this *Thing* forsooth! they would palm upon us for a *King*, in order to set our Royal Race aside; a Race of *Heroes*, whom we have elected to reign over us; but who stand as principal Obstacles in the *French* Career towards *Universal Monarchy*.

Next to our religious and civil Liberties, our Commerce is a Matter of the greatest Importance to us. To deprive us of this, the *French* constantly exert every Art and every Violence. They broke through the *Tariff* of 1664; and established the Duty of 50 s. *per Ton* on our Shipping; and that of 1667, whereby such high Duties were laid on our Woollens, as amounted to a Prohibition; according to the Maxim of *Colbert*, who tells the King, that *the Commodities of other Countries must be prohibited; there will be always Fools enough found to take off those of FRANCE, notwithstanding such Prohibition.*

To ruin our Commerce, these Incendiaries the *French* have stirred up civil Wars amongst us ; alienated some of our Princes from their own Subjects by Pensions ; corrupted our Ministers with Bribes ; and even bought our Senates to do their Drudgery, and sell their Country to a foreign Interest *. Thanks to Heaven we have none of these Evils to apprehend from our present Prince, Ministers or Senate, but every Advantage to hope, that the greatest Wisdom, Steadiness and Integrity, united for our Country's Good, can produce.

They envied our Trade with *Spain* ; and set a Prince of the House of *Bourbon* upon that Throne, to supplant us in our Commerce. His Grandfather *Lewis* gave him in Instruction, when he set out on his Expedition for the *Spanish* Crown, that, *though he was King of Spain, he ought always to remember that he was a Prince of*

* We cannot forget the *French* Commerce-Bill in 1713.

FRANCE. The heavy Duties our Manufactures have been loaded with in *Spain* ever since ; and the flourishing Trade the *French* have with that Kingdom, but too well evince what Regard the late King of *Spain* paid to the Advice of his Grandfather. He was always a *Spanish* King with a *French* Heart.

Le Blanc observes, “ *Depuis qu'un Prince de la Maison de Bourbon est monté sur le Thrône d'Espagne, leur (des Anglois) Commerce avec cette Nation, leur est beaucoup plus désavantageux, qu'il ne l'etoit auparavant.* ” That, since a Prince of the House of BOURBON mounted the Spanish Throne, the Trade of the English with that Kingdom is much more disadvantageous to them than it was before.

But the deepest Wound, they ever gave our Commerce, was by the Artifice of the Enhancement of their Coin. Dutot says, the Price of Bread, Corn, and Provisions, is no greater now than in 1683 ; though in this last Year the Mark of Silver was

but 27 Livres †, and now 50 are coined out of it. This Circumstance has rendered their Commodities so cheap, that, as I have said before, they undersell us, and engross all the Markets in the World from our Merchants ; and leave them only the Gleanings of the plentiful Harvest they have reaped.

It is likewise this Enhancement of their Coin, and the consequent Cheapness of their Commodities, which has enabled our Smugglers to carry on such an advantageous Trade with them. If but 20*l.* 5*s.* were now coined out of their Mark of Silver of eight Ounces Troy Weight, which was the Case in the Year 1660, the *French* would not be able to sell a Gallon of Brandy under 5*s.* Sterling, which now they can sell for 2*s.*; nor a Pound of Tea under 7*s.* 6*d.* Sterling, which they sell now for 3*s.*; nor a Yard of silk Damask under 12*s.* 6*d.* which now they sell for 5*s.*; nor a Yard of Cloth under 15*s.* which they now sell for

† When the Mark was at 20 Livres about 1660, Labour was dearer in *France* than in *England*.

6 s. only abating in the Manufactures, the Difference made in the Price of those Manufactures, with Regard to the Raw-materials, which cost both *French* and *English* Men much the same: Though it is said their Raw-silk comes to them cheaper from their *Turky* Traders; and their Wool used in their fine woollen Stuffs dearer from our *Smugglers*, than to us.

But, tho' they have got the greatest Part of the Trade to *Spain* from us, the *Turky* Trade, the *Italian* Trade, and great Part of the *East India*; the *Northern* and *Cod Fishery*, and *Fur Trade*; yet they cannot be easy, but must attempt to rob us also of our Colonies; our Trade to which is the only valuable Branch we have left, except that of *Portugal*, where the *French* use all imaginable Artifice; and their *very Ambassador turns Pedlar to supplant us.*

Here the Indignation of every Merchant, Manufacturer, Trader, Shopkeeper, Farmer, and Labourer in the Kingdom, ought to be awakened and roused; our Trade to our Colonies in *North America* is of so much

Impor-

Importance to each. The *French* are not satisfied with the Enhancement of their Coin, and the Use of every other Artifice, to supplant us in our Trade in every Market in the World ; but they strive to rob us also of our own Territories, and the Trade among our own People. They use their utmost Endeavours to *out us* of our Dominions, which we have fairly purchased, either by our Alliances, our Treasures, or our Arms, upon the Infraction of Treaties ; and labour to alienate and corrupt our *Indians* by every Artifice and Stratagem.

And what is all this Struggle for ? To make their People happy ? No, far from it ! it is to raise a Marine ! it is to acquire Riches by Commerce to extend their Conquests, and recover the Dominions of *Charlemagne*.

The immediate Design of the *French* in their Encroachments upon our Territories in *North-America*, and in their Approaches towards our Colonies, is to open to themselves a Communication through those Colonies to the

Mississippi and *Canada*. They regret the Advantages we have in the Tobacco Trade, and intend to establish Plantations for that Commodity in the fertile Plains between the River *Mississippi*, and our Settlements in *Virginia*; though all these Lands belong to us. Their Geographers have been so audacious, as to mark out in their Maps one of our Provinces as belonging to *France*. By this they aim at being freed from the tedious and dangerous Voyages, they are obliged to make by the Gulph of *Mexico*, and the River St. *Laurence*, before they can come to the Lakes of *Canada*, and the fertile Plains of *Louisiana*, which are behind our Provinces from *Philadelphia* to *Carolina*.

We must acknowledge, that such a Communication would be as convenient for them, as dangerous to us, and therefore we cannot be too much upon our Guard to prevent their Designs. *Le Blanc* observes to this Purpose: *That the French take great Quantities of Tobacco from England*; but he hopes the Wisdom of their Ministry will soon provide a Remedy against

this Inconvenience ; since they know by Experience, that they have Settlements in Louisiana, where there are Lands as proper for Plantations of Tobacco, as those belonging to the English.

If the *French* could once open a Passage for themselves over-land, from *Canada* and the *Mississippi*, to the Sea-Coast through our Colonies ; they would soon extend themselves Right and Left, and become as troublesome to us in *America*, as they have been to their Neighbours in *Europe*. Upon this Account we ought never to rest, never to sheath the Sword 'till we have driven them out of *North-America* ; because it is impossible, that they should ever live peaceably with us in it.

The *French* know, that the *English* were the Soul of the grand Alliance ; and that the Chastisement they met with from 1702 to 1712, was principally owing to our Valour and Conduct. They know, that we have been the principal Thorn in their Sides, and chief Obstacle in the Way of their Conquest. And upon this Account they try

try all Arts to impoverish and reduce us, by depriving us of our Fisheries, Colonies and Commerce. But as their Aim is Conquest, they run *amuck* at all Mankind ; *their Hand is against every Man, and therefore every Man's Hand ought to be against them.*

From the Year 1702 to 1712, though entrenched Chin-deep, and surrounded with Artillery, they constantly fled before *British* Courage. Let the Genius of *Britain* rise, let the Lion once more roar, and shake his dreadful Mane, and he will again drive these trembling Slaves like Deer before him. It is impossible that cringing Slaves should make courageous Soldiers. Vanity cannot raise such a Spirit, such a Fire, as an innate Sense and Love of Freedom. We hope we shall again set a *Marlboro'*, and the Fields of *Blenheim* and *Ramillies* before their Eyes, in the truly glorious Hero who impeded the Ruin plan'd for us, by them, in the late Rebellion ; and let us then see how their vain Glory, and slavish Hearts, will stand it. Let us again rattle the Thunder of *la Hogue* in their Ears, by the noble Lord to whom the Direction, and surprizingly expe-

ditious fitting out of our present very powerful Naval Armament, are, according to the publick Voice, chiefly owing ; and see how their dastardly Souls will shudder. I hope our Administration will never suffer this Thunder to sleep, whilst the *French* have a capital Ship remaining on the Ocean, or lying in their Harbours ; and may all true *Britons* say *Amen*. When their Navy is blasted, we may soon drive them out of *North-America*, and make the Cod Fishery and Fur Trade all our own, which by Right ought to have been so long ago.

If then we have any Regard for our holy Religion, any Love for Liberty, any Tenderness for our Posterity, or any Attention to our Trade and our Interest, let us freely contribute for one Ten Year half our Income, to carry on a War for crushing this exorbitant Monster *French* Insolence, and *French* Power ; and in so doing, we may be well assured, we shall sit down great Gainers in the End.

HF
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Author

Title The progress of the French.

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